

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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EXPLORE AND PLAN RESULTS RELEASED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky's 8th- and 10th-grade public school students participated in a statewide administration of the EXPLORE and PLAN assessments in the fall of 2008, and overall school scores moved up slightly in most subject areas tested.

Unlike most other states, all of Kentucky's 8th- and 10th-grade public school students participate in EXPLORE and PLAN assessments. As is often the case with these examinations, when the pool of test-takers is large, overall scores tend to be lower. For the 2008 administration, Kentucky's overall scores increased in nearly every subject area.

In the 2008 administration, 48,653 8th-grade Kentucky students in 324 public schools took the EXPLORE assessment. The scoring scale for the assessment is from 1 to 25.

EXPLORE Scores from Fall 2006, 2007 and 2008 Administrations

SUBJECT	AVERAGE SCORES			
	KENTUCKY			NATION
	2006	2007	2008	Norms set in 2005
English	13.6	13.7	13.8	14.2
Mathematics	14.2	14.4	14.6	15.1
Reading	13.8	13.7	13.9	13.8
Science	15.8	15.8	16.0	15.9
Composite	14.5	14.5	14.7	14.9

In the 2008 administration, 50,531 10th-grade Kentucky students in 229 public schools took the PLAN assessment. The scoring scale for the assessment is from 1 to 32.

PLAN Scores from Fall 2006, 2007 and 2008 Administrations

SUBJECT	AVERAGE SCORES			
	KENTUCKY			NATION
	2006	2007	2008	Norms set in 2005
English	15.6	15.3	15.9	16.9
Mathematics	16.3	16.2	16.4	17.4
Reading	16.0	16.1	16.0	16.9
Science	17.3	17.2	17.4	18.2
Composite	16.4	16.3	16.6	17.5

(more)

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The national normative data for EXPLORE and PLAN are based on students who took all four academic tests within standard time limits as part of a national study conducted in Fall 2005.

Scores by ethnicity and gender followed trends similar to those found in other assessments.

2008 EXPLORE Scores by Ethnicity and Gender

	COMPOSITE	ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	READING	SCIENCE
African American	13.1	12.0	12.7	12.4	14.7
American Ind./Alas. Native	14.6	13.6	14.4	13.9	16.3
Caucasian American	14.9	14.1	14.9	14.1	16.2
Asian American	16.6	15.8	16.9	15.4	17.7
Mexican American	13.7	12.4	13.6	13.0	15.4
Puerto Rican American	12.8	11.5	12.3	12.1	14.8
Multiracial	14.5	13.8	14.6	13.7	15.5
Other	14.2	13.2	14.0	13.4	15.6
No Response	14.2	13.3	13.8	13.7	15.4
Males	14.4	13.2	14.5	13.6	15.7
Females	15.1	14.5	14.7	14.3	16.3

2008 PLAN Scores by Ethnicity and Gender

	COMPOSITE	ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	READING	SCIENCE
African American	14.7	13.8	14.5	14.1	15.9
American Ind./Alas. Native	15.2	14.4	14.8	14.6	16.5
Caucasian American	16.9	16.2	16.7	16.4	17.7
Asian American	18.9	17.8	20.1	17.4	19.5
Mexican American	15.4	14.2	15.4	14.7	16.6
Puerto Rican American	14.5	13.4	14.6	13.7	16.0
Multiracial	15.6	15.2	14.9	15.4	16.3
Other	15.8	15.0	15.8	15.1	16.8
No Response	14.8	13.7	15.0	14.2	15.8
Males	16.2	15.2	16.5	15.5	17.3
Females	17.0	16.6	16.3	16.7	17.6

Administration of the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT assessments, which are provided by ACT, Inc., was mandated by Senate Bill 130 in the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The assessments will help schools focus on meeting academic standards across the entire secondary school program. Scores from the assessments will be helpful in measuring student achievement, gauging their readiness for transition and evaluating school programs.

(more)

The ACT Index is included in accountability calculations for middle and high schools. PLAN and ACT were included in the high school ACT Index beginning with the 2007-08 school year. EXPLORE scores will be included in the 2008-09 middle school ACT Index.

The EXPLORE program is a high school readiness examination designed to help 8th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. The exam assesses four subjects (English, mathematics, reading and science) and provides needs assessments and other components to help students plan for high school and beyond.

The PLAN program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. The exam assesses four subjects (English, mathematics, reading and science) and is a predictor of success on the ACT.

Both assessments help schools pinpoint areas of weakness for individual students and schoolwide curriculum and make changes to improve learning. Schools will analyze their individual results to inform decision-making.

State law (KRS 158.6459) mandates that the Individual Learning Plans of students whose scores on EXPLORE and PLAN indicate that they need additional assistance in particular subject areas will incorporate strategies to help them improve their performance.

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